



By the King.

To all Noblemen, Gentlemen, and o-
ther our louing Subiects, to whom it
may appertaine.

W Heras *Arthur Standish* Gen-
tleman, hath taken much
paines and beene at great
charges in composing and
publishing in a Booke, some proiects

A 2

for

for the increasng of Woods ; the decay whereof in this Realme is vniuersally complained of ; And therefore We would be glad that any inuention might further the restoring thereof ; We haue therefore beene pleased to giue allowance to his Booke , and to the Printing thereof. And if the same shall be willingly receiued of such of the Gentlemen , and others of ability , who haue grounds fitting for his projects, It shall much content Vs, doubting not but that such as shall thinke good to make vse of the Booke , will deale worthily with him for his pains. And VVe are also pleased for the better encouragement of the said *Standish*, hereby to declare , That our pleasure is , that no Person or Persons whatsoeuer shall Print any of the said Books,

Books, but for and to the vse of the said
Standish, and none others.

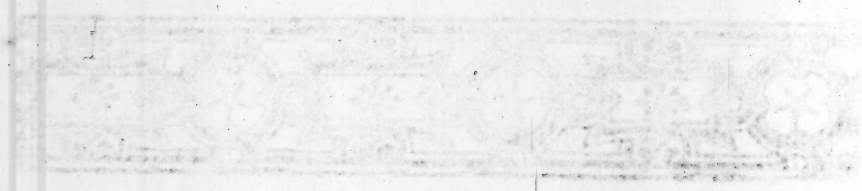
*Giuen vnder our Signet at Andeuer
the first day of August, in the ninth yeere of
our Reigne of England, Fraunce, and
Freland, and of Scotland the five and for-
tieth.*

God saue the King.



Books, but for and to the use of the said
Society, and none others.
Given under our Signet in A.D. 1600
the first day of August, in the ninth year of
our Raigne of England, France, and
Ireland, and of Scotland by our Letters
under the Great Seale.

God bless the King



THE
COMMONS
COMPLAINT.
WHEREIN IS CONTAINED
TWO SPECIALL
GRIEVANCES:

The first, the generall destruction and waste of Woods in this Kingdome, with a remedy for the same: Also how to plant Wood according to the nature of euery soile, without losse of ground, and how thereby many more, and better Cattell may be yearely bred, with the charge and profit that yearely may arise thereby.

THE SECOND GRIEVANCE IS, THE EXTREAME DEARTH OF VICTUALS.

Four remedies for the same:

- 1 By a generall planting of Fruit-trees, with the charge and profite.
- 2 By an extraordinary breeding of Fowle and Pullen in places convenient, by a Plot herein set downe for the purpose, with the charge and profite.
- 3 By a general destroying of all kinde of Vermine, with a neere estimation what is yearely deuoured and destroyed by them, and how the most of them in short time may be destroyed with a small charge.
- 4 Prouing the abundance of Corne that is yearely deuoured and destroyed by the infinite number of Pigeons, kept and maintayned in this Kingdome.

LONDON,
Printed by William Stansby. 1611.

THE

COMMONS

COMPLAINT

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED

THE TWO SPECIAL

GRIEVANCES

1. The first grievance is that the House of Commons has been deprived of its right to elect its own members, and that the members have been elected by the King, who has the power to appoint and dismiss them at will.

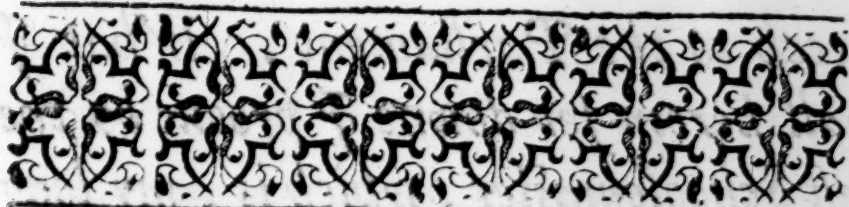
THE SECOND GRIEVANCE IS THE EX

CESSATION OF THE

FOURTEENTH CENTURY

2. The second grievance is that the House of Commons has been deprived of its right to elect its own members, and that the members have been elected by the King, who has the power to appoint and dismiss them at will.

Printed by W. B. ...



To the Kings most excellent
MAIESTIE.

NEXT vnto God, most
dread Soueraigne, the
loue and duty that I owe
vnto your Maiestie and
Kingdom, hath imbold-
ned me to Dedicate the fruits of my old
age and trauell vnto your Highnesse,
hoping that the subiect thereof will no
way offend you: since it is intended
to the good of your Maiestie and your
Royall Progenie, the generall good of
the Common wealth for all posteritie;
and in part tendeth to your Princely
Speech

The Epistle Dedicatory.

*Speech to the Parliament . What I
shall herein set downe I prooue by the
best Schoolemaster , which is , my long
experience , hauing spent many yeares
in the attaining thereunto , especially
these foure last yeares , wherein I haue
imploied my study and trauell through
some parts of most of the Countries of
this Kingdome for this purpose , oft ha-
uing conference with many of the best
Commonwealths-men for my better
vnderstanding ; desiring by all good
meanes to attaine to a perfect knowledge
how to Plant , preserue , and maintaine
the blessings of God , as well in this our
destroying age , as they haue beene in
former times , wherein was left a prece-
dent and plentie of that which is now in
effect destroyed . All are giuen to take
the profite present , but few or none at all
regard*

The Epistle Dedicatory.

regard the posteritie or future times.
This exercise in all ages hath beene in
high account with the wisest and most
worthiest, and hath bene blessed by
God himselfe, (as hath appeared to the
world:) and by the approbation of your
Maiestie, may be so put in execution,
as the branches thereof may be spread
ouer all your Dominions, to the dis-
burdening of your louing Subiects of
all their grieuances present and to come.
I spare to proceede any further, since
your Maiestie, whom God hath filled
with the spirit of wisdom in vnder-
standing, by your ready apprehension
vnderstandeth much more then I can
speake hereof. Thus submitting my
poore labours, or rather worthlesse
mite, to the consideration of your Roy-
all Maiesty, hauing nothing else to pre-
B sent

The Epistle Dedicatory.

*sent the same withall, but my humble
prayers to the King of Kings, to mul-
tiply the gifts of his holy Spirit
more and more vpon you, and
that you may Reigne ma-
ny happy yeares a-
mongst vs.*

Your Highnesse most

humble Subiect,

ARTHVR STANDISH.



TO THE READER.

THou hast here gentle Reader, brought home vnto thee not onely the haruest of my long experience, but also the opinion of many hundreds that I haue conuersed withall, who haue beene eyther the actors of some of these proiects herein contained, or the eye-witnesses thereof, with little labour or cost vnto thy selfe, wherein thou mayest plainly according to the nature of euery Soile, learne how to plant such profites as naturally our Countrey hath, and will afford for the profit of thy selfe and Country. First, how to plant Wood, and how to breed Cattell to a greater number, yearely to thy great gaine, as shall plainly be proued. In the second, the profite of planting Fruit-trees in Hedges or Orchards, as of Apples, VVardens, Peares, VVal-nut and Ches-nut trees; being no strange nouelties, although by want of industry they are made strange vnto vs, by our
B 2 buy-

To the Reader.

buying them from forraigne Countries at a deare rate, by our slouth and negligence; whereas by the blessing of God, the very soile of our Hedges is such, as they would yeelde great plentie, without hindring any other profite, and may be gained with lesse cost and labour, then any other commoditie in this Kingdome whatsoeuer, as shall here in be proued. In the third, the manner how to breede Fowle and Pullin, by a secure plot from stealing, and from vermine. Lastly, how by a speedy meanes to destroy all kinde of Vermine, especially the feathered kinde, with a neere estimation what is yearly destroyed by vermine and Pidgeons, both in Corne and other things. By meanes thereof, not only Corne, but especially other victuals is brought and doth continue at too deare a rate, for the poore Artificer and labouring man; by which dearth, too oft ariseth discontentments, and mutinies among the common sort, as appeared of late by a grievance taken onely for the dearth of Corne in VVarwicke-shire, Northampton-shire, and other places, about which time the mindes of many were molested: wherupon I tooke
the

To the Reader.

the first occasion to imploy my studie and
trauell in this busines, hoping by Gods helpe
to preuent such inconueniencies, as too oft
doe spring out of the desperate tree of want.
VWhereupon good Reader, it ensueth, that by
the obseruing of these small directions, thou
mayest perform some part of the cause of thy
creation, by giuing glory to thy Creator, ho-
nour, pleasure, and profite to thy king, coun-
trei, and to thy selfe also, by feeling and relie-
uing thy Christian brothers wants, and by a
charitable industrie, thou maist raise meanes
to disburthen them of all their grieuances,
and in the end, by the mercie of our good
God, thou maist be partaker of his louing
promises in the Gospell, *Come yee blessed of my
Father, &c.* The which I craue for Iesus
Christ his sake.

the 2d edition to be revised
and corrected. The
author has been
very anxious to
correct all errors
and to bring out
the 2d edition as
early as possible.
The 1st edition
has been sold
very well, and
the author has
received many
kind remarks
from the public.
The 2d edition
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VPON THE AVTHOVR AND HIS
most commendable and necessary worke.

FOr me thy paines and subiect to commend
(Each praising each by their dumbe silence best)
Were Candle-light vnto the Sunne to lend,
Send Owles to Athens, paint the Phœnix brest;
Giue Flora Garlands, Loue his Myrtle bow,
Arabia odours, pearle to Thetis brow.

But lo the Genius of faire Britain by,
Commands me speake, to giue thee thy desert,
Who art so carefull of posterity,
And present times unrūd of greater part:
Swearing by Thames her hopes are more by Standish,
Then all the gold she got by Drake or Candish.

Henry Peacham.



TO GOD, THE ONLY WISE
AND ALL-CREATOR.

THis worke of mine do thou (Oh Lord) so bleſſe,
That enemies who doe thy ſervant hate,
May pine to ſee, by thee his happineſſe:
And how thou doſt protect his poore eſtate.
For who ſhall euer his confuſion ſee,
That left alone, doth put his truſt in thee?

MATTH. 6. 33.

First ſeeke the Kingdome of God and his rightcouneſſe, and
all things ſhall be miniſtred unto you.

PSAL. 1. 3.

Whatſoever he [the man that loveth Gods word] doth,
ſhall proſper.

THE





THE COMMONS COMPLAINT.

WEedoe in all humblenessse complaine vn-
to your Maiesty of the generall destructi-
on and waste of wood, made within this
your Kingdome, more within twenty or
thirty last yeares, then in any hundred
yeares before. Little respect is taken but by your Ma-
iestie, for the posterity and prosperity of your King-
dome; too many destroyers, but few or none at all
doth plant or preserue: by reason thereof there is not
Tymer left in this Kingdome at this instant onely to
repaire the buildings thereof another age, much lesse to
build withall: whereby this grievance doth daily in-
crease. The reasons are many: first, the want of fire is
expected, without the which mans life cannot bee pre-
serued: secondly, the want of Timber, Brick, Tyle, Lime
Iron, Lead and glasse for the building of habitations;
Timber for the maintaining of husbandry, for nauiga-
tion, for vessels, for bruing and the keeping of drinke,
and all other necessities for housekeeping: barke for
the tanning of Leather, bridges for trauell, pales for
C parkes.

The Commons complaint.

parkes, poles for Hops, and salt from the Wiches. The want of wood is, and will bee a great decay to tillage, and cannot but be the greatest cause of the dearth of corne, and hindereth greatly the yearely breeding of many cattell by reason that much straw is yearely burned, that to the breeding of cattell might be imployed: the want of wood in many places of this kingdome, constraineth the foyll of cattell to bee burned, which should bee imployed to the strengthening of land, and so doth the want of hurdles for the folding of sheepe, and the want of wood causeth too many great losses by fire, that commeth by the burning of straw, and so it may be conceiued, no wood, no Kingdome.

The remedies may be thus :

IF that all owners of land, according to the nature of the soile wherein their lands do lie, were enioyned to plant all their hedges with wood, (and not onely with thornes as too many doe) imagining that wood will hinder the growth of their thornes, and so hinder the strength of their fence; which is not so, if the wood and the thornes be planted together, as may well appeare to those that marke it well; which if it should, I hope it will be graunted, and shall hereby appeare, that there is no comparison to be made between the profite of wood and thornes) so thicke as conveniently trees may grow and prosper, which may be two at the least in euery poll, to be topped and lopped for fire wood; reseruing some part of their hedges to plant fruit trees in, as Apples, Wardens, Peares, Wal-nut or Chief-nut-trees, which may yeelde no lesse profite: for
the

The Commons complaint. 3

the Tymber of the Wal-nut-tree is for many vses very good and profitable, and the Chef-nut-tree is very lasting tymber, as appeareth by foure principall posts in the hall at Farnam Castle, which is said, was builded before, or in the time that King *Arthur* reigned in this Kingdome. The Wal-nut would be set about Michelmass, when the greene coate is on it; and the Wal nuts must be steeped three dayes and nights in milke before it be set, and watered the first two Sommers, if they be drie: and further to plant foure trees for euery acre, to be preferued for tymber, for so many yeares before any of them should be felled; as the trees may be growne to be good tymber, which may be foure score yeares: and that after the trees be growne to be tymber, that none should be felled, or at any time before or after wasted, but so many to be planted and continued, (as it is said the King of Spaine hath enacted, for the better continuance of the Iron works in his Dominions) and further, that all such persons as haue at this instant their grounds furnished with wood in such sort as is required, might be also inioyned to continue the same, and to preferue so many Timber trees, and so many for fire wood, as hereafter they may fell or waste. And that all Tenants might be inioyned to doe the like, and so haue sufficient Timber for all vses belonging to his Tenement, and sufficient fire-wood for all purposes belonging to his house, or bettering of his Lands by burning of Lime, or what else, making no waste, for the better encouragement, in lieu of his charge and paines. This being performed, it shall appeare to bee the best proiect that hath beene offered in our age, as the case standeth with the Kingdome, by the scarcity that is, and

4 *The Commons complaint.*

like to grow vnto, considering that it may be performed with so small a charge, and continued with so litle labour. And for the better conceiuing thereof; admit that a man haue onely fourescore acres in his occupation of Pasture ground, wherein he yearely feedeth or breedeth twenty cattell, or keepeth twenty milch kine; and that he should for this purpose inclose fourer rhodes (which is an acre) in foure seuerall corners of the foure score acres; the which corners are already inclosed for the fences of the same closes, and is so to be maintained notwithstanding this deuice, so the rest that is to be done, is but ten poll in length, and foure in bredth: the which fourteene poll for one rhode, may cost to be wel ditched and double quick-set eight pence a poll, nine shillings foure pence: a hedge on the outside to saue the quicke wood sixe pence a poll, which will last well three yeares, and then to be hedged a new, that may cost other sixe pence a poll, fourteene shillings. In the Sommers before these rhodes of ground are to be inclosed, there must be digged fourescore seuerall plots, in euery rhode of a yarde square, three yardes lacking three inches betweene plot and plot euery way, which is to be digged ouer three seuerall times, a moneth or sixe weekes betweene euery time, the last to be about Al-hollantide, when the mast of Oake, Beech, or the chafts or keyes (as some terme them) of Ashe is ripe, and that the sap of Elmes be returned to the roote: then set in euery of the said square yards, nine Acornes, or Beech mast, or the little roots of Elme, a foot betweene euery of them, and more of the chats of Ashe, or of the rest not aboue three fingers deepe: the digging thereof three times ouer, and the setting cannot cost
about

The Commons complaint. 5

about foure shillings. These being set, they must be weeded the first two yeares, twise in either Sommer, which may cost at euery time twelue pence, foure shillings: the weeders not to come among the plants, but on the out side for treading of the plants: then after two or three yeares, in September when the sappe is in the roots, all the yong plants that grow may be taken vp to be planted in the hedges of the same close, reseruing onely two in euery plot so set of the best like to be trees: then after sixe yeares when it may be perceiued which of those two so left is like to be the best tree, take away the worst, and plant also in the hedges as afore-said, and leaue onely one being the best; the remouing of these plants may cost two shillings. The quick-wood for the fence to make a good fence would be cut hard by the ground vpward with a knife for loosning the roots, when it hath stood two yeares: and so will the plants of wood being so cut and weeded, which may cost two shillings. The quicke wood being thus cut and weeded will grow more in one yeare then it could being vncut in three; so that in the fourth yeare after it is cut, it will be so thicke and so high, as no reasonable cattle can get through or ouer it. Thus the whole charge of a rhode cannot be about thirty fve shillings eight pence: admit it were forty shillings, it were not great in regard of the profite that will appeare to arise thereby. In the meane time, till the young plants in the rhode of ground be growne vp, past the taking hurt by cattell, which may be tenne yeares, three parts of the ground may be mowed betweene the plants; so that small losse may be taken by the ground so inclosed, or after three or foure yeare it may be eaten with sheepe:

and then when the wood is growne vp past taking hurt by cattell, a way or two would be made into the saide rhode, that the cattell of the said close may goe in and out at pleasure.

The charge thus being set downe at the most, it followeth, to shew the profite that may arise thereby to the performer: first the fourescore trees growing in one rhode, till they be threescore yeares old may well be worth at fifteene shillings a tree, three score pounds, which fourescore trees groweth after three pound a yeare, and so the rest: for by that time it may be well supposed that a small tree may be worth fifteene shillings: the trees planted in the other three rhodes may be much better, by reason that one other rhode groweth to be fourescore yeares before they be felled, one other fivescore, and the last sixescore whereby they may be well worth the rate set downe. In the hedges about twenty acres, there may be planted at the least foure hundred plants out of euery rhode, whereof if two hundred and fiftie doe but grow, which they will doe much the better, if they be cut when they haue taken root two yeares, as before is set downe for the quicke-woods, being saued from hurt by the thornes or other wood that groweth in the hedge, or by some other meanes, that in discretion may be vsed, will so grow as they may be topped at sixteene years growth, and againe foure years after, therby to saue them from the force of the winde; which if the tops be too great when they are young, they may be shaken loose at the root by the winde, and so die. After which time euery eight yeares they may be lopped for fire wood, so long as they are maintained; which loppe cannot be lesse worth

The Commons complaint.

7

worth then sixe pence a tree, and euery two trees cannot be lesse then a load worth twelue pence. The number of the trees about the foure score acres, may be a thousand at the least, which ariseth at the rate set down to five and twenty pound euery eight yeares : which wood groweth after three pound two shillings sixe pence a yeare. The mast that may yearely grow of the thousand trees in the hedges, and of three hundred and twenty in the foure rhodes, may very well be worth one yeare with another, and one tree with another, a penie a tree, and may be well rated to be worth yearly five pound : the rather in regard that in plentifull yeares of mast, there may of them bee gathered, w^{ch} being dried of a Kylne, may be kept as Pease and Beanes two or three yeares, to feede Hogges, and the mast of Beech will feede cattell and pullen, as may appeare by Deere and pullen kept in Parkes, especially Turkeyes.

Thus it appeareth to al men that there may be yearly raised in tymber firewood and mast out of one acre of foure score, eleuen pound. If the foure score acres be pasture, it may be further improued : first, the foure score cattell that is to be sommered in foure score acres, they will be bettered at the least two shillings in a beast yearely by their quiet being in the woodes, keeping their flesh, that other wayes would be lost, being constrained by the extreme heat of the Sunne and flies for want of shadow, to runne vp and downe the grounds; and oft breaking out into corne, where they may doe much hurt, and also running into the water, which if it be a standing pond, and not a running water, they so soile the water, as when they would drinke they cannot; the want thereof oft times breeds diseases among cattell;

8 *The Commons complaint.*

cattel, and further may be saued at the least foure yeare by the grasse that before was spoiled by the cattels running & foyling therof. And thus much all breeders and feeders will affirme, and so wil hufwifes of their dairies, and by the shadow of the wood, & the clearenesse of the water, that the cattel may drink at wil, a better breed of cattell may be made. For those countries that want shadow or water, can neuer breede fairer cattell as may appeare by those countries that haue far better ground then Lankashire, and yet cannot breede so good cattell. Thus all things being reasonably rated, it appeareth, that by this manner of planting, the foure score acres are improued fifteene pound a yeare to particular planters, if there were but halfe so much profite, it were sufficient to induce all men to the planting of wood.

As for the generall good that may grow thereby to the Kingdome, that all the wants recited in the first page may be so supplied, as all such necessities may be had plentifully at a reasonable rate, great losses that may come by burning of straw preuented, many more cattell in countries where they burne much straw for want of wood may be yearly bred, the soyle of them, and much more that is burned in many countries for want of wood may be employed to the manuring of ground, and great store of Lime in countries where Limestone is, may be burned, wherby much more corn may be yearly got, by the Malt much corne may be yearly saued, the Coales neere the coasts may be transported. And the whole Kingdome heereby may be preserued from the ruine that is greatly feared.

IF the aforesaid directions shall seeme too chargeable to any, I haue added hereunto some others more agreeable to the time, exceptable to all men, and in the opinion of most men so necessarie, as they are holden not worthy to be the owners of Groundes, that will not obserue them; in regarde that experience hath taught all men to know, that in all ages, Bushes hath been, and will be (if they be preserved) in all Groundes, the very nurse of Trees: so that all men may take notice hereby, that by the digging vp of a foote square of ground in the midst of any Tuft of Bushes, Briers, Gorse, or Furses, as some rearme them, and therein to set three of the Mast of Oake, Beech, or the cut boughes of Willow, or Elme, according to the directions set downe in the tenth Page; or the Keyes of Ashe, according to the nature of the soyles: out of which three, it is not to be doubted, but one of them at the least will grow and prosper; if the Bushes be preserved till the Plantes be past taking hurt by Cattle. The like may be obserued vnder euery lone Bush, the Bush being so high growen as the Boughes thereof may be plashed to hang downe, so as they may defende the Plant.

The like Planting may be vsed in the bottome of euery Quicke hedge, where they may be defended by the Thornes therein growing. The profite that may arise thereby, is extant in many Countries, especially in Essex; which although there be generally greater store of Wood in that Countie, then in any other Countie of this Realme, they find such profit by their Lop-wood in their Hedges, as there the owners of Ground doth more nourish and preferue the Woods growing in their Hedges, then Northampton, Leicester, Rutland, & other Countries doth: in which Countries, there is the greatest want of Timber & Firewood generally, then in any Countries of this Kingdome: Yet notwithstanding in those Countries, and other Countries, where the planting of Wood is more then needfull to be planted, they altogether inclose
and

and take in whole Parishes by a Fence of Thornes with
litle or no Wood at all therein; to the great hinderance
and losse to the Common-wealth. And by alike planting
in all Gorsie groundes where Gorsie groweth so natu-
rally, as the owner thereof can in no wise destroy it, great
plentie of Timber, and Firewood, may be raised, and the
soyle improved, especially if the Wood be planted in
Rowes, tenne yeards betweene euery Row, and in euery
Row fourty four, so as there may be five yeardes be-
tweene euery Plant one way, & ten the other. The num-
ber of the Trees that may be thus planted about the sides
of any Ground, and in the Rowes, may be a hundred for
euery Acre. Then after the Trees be growen vp past the
taking hurt by cattell, the Gorsie may be stocked vp, the
ground betweene the Rowes may be ploughed, & sowed
with Cornes and being Lymed, the Lyme together with
the shadow of the Trees, will approuedly so destroy the
Gorsie, as the ground wilbe recouerd to be good Pasture.
And in like sort, all Broomy ground may be improved.

Some to this, hath objected; That if their Gorsie were
thus destroyed, they should be indamnified thereby, in re-
gard they haue no better Fuell. To which I haue an-
swered, & given good satisfaction: that it is not intended
that the Gorsie should be destroyed before the Wood
be so growen vp, as it may yeeld better Fuell, and better
store. Other say, that they haue sett much Mast, and Ker-
nels of Apples, and other seedes, which neuer came to
prooffe; by reason that they were deuowred by Mice. The
remedie to preuent the same from Mice, Hoggies, and o-
ther Varmine, is to dippe them in Tarre before they be
set; the scent thereof will preserue them. This kind of
Planting, may be effected with so small a charge, and
maintained with so litle labour, as not any man that ei-
ther regardeth the content of their King, the good of
their owne posteritie, or Common-wealth, can in reason
omit to obserue.

OBJECTIONS.

IT is objected I know by many, that it is against a mans profit to preferue his woods, since they grow but after three shillings foure pence an acre yearly, when as the ground being conuerted to pasture, is worth tenne shillings an acre yearly: further it is said by diuers, that in wood countries they haue wood enough for them and their heires, as well for building as burning, let them plant wood that neede it: moreouer it cannot (say they) be easily conceiued how wood can be planted, in respect of the difference of soiles, or how plants enow may be gotten to plant the Kingdome withall, or how any such profite may be likely to arise: lastly, that there is Sea-coales enow to supply many wants thereof.

THE ANSWER.

THE Obiections touching wood are true in part, as may appeare to all men, for that so great a spoyle and wast is made thereof, whereby the Kingdome is in danger to be ruinated thereby, if some prouision be not speedily provided, but not in the whole, as would appeare, if a suruay were taken of the timber now growing in this Kingdome, for it would be found too true, that the fourth part hath not timber to maintaine and repaire the building thereof three score yeares, although no part thereof should be imploied for new buildings. As touching the difference of soyles such as are ignorant therein, may herby know

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that wood hath and will grow in the most part of all this Kingdome, being planted and preserued, as it ought, as first appeareth by the Peake countrey of Darbyshire and other rocky countries, where there is yet to be seene Ashe-wood growing about euery towne, and would be more in other places if it were planted and preserued. As for Oake, Beech, Elme, and Ashe, it will grow in flinty and grauelly ground, as it appeareth by the Children country, as it is termed of many shires. Elme specially will grow best in grauelly ground, as appeareth euery way about London. And for fennish grounds it appeareth about the townes in those countries, that there is, and hath beene better store and would be, as well as hath beene, if it were planted, of Elme and Willow. The best manner of planting Elme and Willow is to loppe young bowes of three or foure yeares growth in the latter end of March, or the beginning of Aprill, before the buddes put forth, being lopped presently, cut the bowes into lengthes of a foote long, being sure to leaue the knot where the budde is to put forth in the midst, cut the bowes sloping Coult-foote like, then lay the short boughs in trenches where you would haue them to grow a yarde one from another, not aboue a hand breadth deepe, and couer them with good mould, being sure to lay the knot vppward, and not at all to couer it, and treade the mould fast to them, if the first and second Sommer be drie, then water them well twise a weeke at the least, and assuredly they will so grow, that as of other wood, so of Willow or Elme you may haue shadow in some corner of a close for cattell, and great plentie of wood with lesse charge then other wood, for onely a good ditch

The Commons complaint.

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ditch will serue in such grounds as Willow may best be planted in, as for Elme it must be planted in harder ground, if they grow too thicke, as vndoubtedly they will. Some may be so cut vp, as the cattell may haue good roome to lye, and go betweene the trees, the Elme will grow to timber if it be not lopped. This kind of planting will sooner grow to bee trees, then boughes cut and set: The best setting of the boughes of any trees about Lammas, before the sappe returne toward the roots of trees, is with a knife to pare the barke of a bough a hand broad, hard at the bodie of the tree, so cleane from the bough, as the sappe may not returne to the bodie, and a hand bredth next to the plot so pared, lay a good quantity of clay two inches thicke, and a shaftment broad at the least, and within the clay next to the barke a little better earth, being sure to bind the clay fast about the bough, so as when the bough is to be cut off with a sawe from the tree, which must be about the midst of September, at which time the bough must be sawne off hard by the earth, in which earth the sappe will haue taken such roote, that if it be presently set with the earth about the top being a little cut off, will more assuredly grow to be trees for loppe wood then any other kinde of setting sets: by which meanes such fennes may haue timber, firewood, and shadow & shelter for cattel, and so will the boughs of Apple, or Peare trees, and oft times beare the first yeare: provided that the boughes be of the tallest and straightest. And as for Sea-coales, there is no assurance how long they may endure: it is apparant that Coale-mines do decay too fast in most countries, and are too chargeable for many countries in respect of carriage,

and in most mines they are not to be got without the use of much wood.

What further benefite may be made on sheepe-walks, Downes or Heathes, by planting of wood where the grounds are barren.

IF for example on euery Sheep-walke whereon there is, or may be kept five hundred sheepe, there were plowed vp about Christmas twentie acres in the lowest bottome of the walke for this purpose, where water may be kept all the yeare, aswell for the breeding of Fowle, as for the other profits: all which may be maintained vnder one charge by the shepheard without, as it were a peece of corne, fencing of the same (for that on such Downes cattell seldome times come.) Being so plowed, let it lye till Midsummer: if then it be perceiued that there will be Mast that yeare, then plough it againe, and then let it lie vntill about Hallowmas: Then take the Mast of Oke, Beech, after the Chats or keyes of Ashe, bruised Crabbes, and the veriuike is pressed out, and hawes: mingle these together to sow about the sides and ends of the ground about a yard broad, and vpon the rest sow no Hawes, but some few kernels of Crabs, with the Mast. Thus being sowne, plough the ground vp into a little ridge, and plough vnder this Mast and Chats very shallow, then leaue tenne yarges in breadth, and sow and plough one yard more, and so from side to side. The rest of the headlands to lie till the rest of the close is to be sowne in March with Otes, that the cattell may not hurt the mast sowne by treading on it.

The

The Commons complaint. 13

The close being thus sown with Mast and Otes, in the meane time whilst the ground is in tilling, there would be a house builded for the Shepheard to dwell in, where he may best ouer-see the ground at his ease. The charge thereof, first, of the house fīue pound, the plowing thrise and the harrowing, two shillings eight pence an acre, eight pound the Mast, and getting it ready, twentie shilling, for eight quarters of Otes to sow the ground foure pound, for the getting of Otes in haruest, and carrying of them into the barne fortie shillings, and the straw will thrash them, so the whole charge is twenty pound, the Otes will yeelde thirtie pound, if they increase but sixe for one. Then when the spring is of two years growth, there may be drawne vp part of the spring, which may be imploied for quicksets: and when the remainder is fixe yeares of growth, there may be more drawne vp to be set in the sides and ends, if they be not so quicke as the owners would haue them, leauing them foure score on either side, two in a poll, and in either end eight score, in euery row foure and fortie, fīue yards betweene euery one, and here and there to leaue some speciall one that is like to be a fine tree for Timber, & some hundred or more of the Crab tree stocks to graft on, & so leaue as there may be left at the least two thousand for to be lopped for fire-wood, foure scoure for Timber, and foure score to graft on. The two thousand may be topped as before, which at euerie eight yeares end may be lopped for fire-wood: the tops of them cannot be so little worth after thirtie yeares, as sixe pence a tree, which riseth to fiftie pound, the foure score for Timber may after three score yeares be worth fortie pound at tenne shillings a tree, the

fruit that may grow of fourescore trees at sixe pence a tree, fortie shillings by the yeare; and the ground being before barren (hardly worth twelue pence an acre) may be worth ten shilling an acre by the yeare: for by the grasse and weeds that wil grow the first sixe yeares, and the lodging of the sheepe in the night, when the weather is such as they cannot be folded, and the shadow of the trees, which are so to be planted, that there may be tenne yardes betweene euery tree, except in the rowes, the ground will be made very good meadow, and will finde the sheepe hay enough with good winter pasture, and warme shelter in sharpe weather. And if water can be kept, there may be bred with twentie pound cost, fowle or pullen well worth twentie nobles by the yeare, all charges borne. If the plot for fowle be neare corne, then may there be best kept wilde Duckes and Mallards, which doe neuer hurt corne in the field.

If the planting of wood were on common Sheepe-walks, Common pastures, and Commons where the lands are so good as they might be sown with Wheate or Rie, with the Malt, the whole charge thereof would be made in three yeares worth twentie pound gaine at the least, by the croppe of Wheate or Rye, and a crop of Otes after betweene the grounds, where the Malt is sowne, as before is set downe. If the like prouision were made in Parks where wood decayeth, and hay is scant for Deere, it would be very beneficiall to the owners, and by the planting of Commons, common pastures, or common Sheepe-walks by the charges of the towne, wherunto such grounds doe belong, the charge will be inned, as before is set downe, in three yeares, a present

present reliefe raised by fowle to the poore of the town, of sixe pound thirteene shillings foure pence, and after tenne yeares, three pound sixe shillings eight pence at the least by fruite : fourescore trees to bee left for Timber, and two thousand trees remaining to be lopped, which may yeeld wood worth five pounds a yeares; by meanes whereof the townes (where such prouision may be best made,) may not onely be greatly eased of the charge of their poore, but also haue a stocke whereby they may be eased of such charges as may happen eyther to Church or King by increase of the stocke. By this manner of planting wood a president may be taken by such as are desirous to improoue their grounds, by stocking and stubbing vp their woods, to make as much profit of wood as now they doe, and haue the profite of the ground, either to plough for corne, or to mow for hay betweene the rowes of wood, or to pasture it at the pleasure of the owner. And further take certaine knowledge that all barren and mossie grounds may be improved much, by letting three yeares grasse rotte on the ground and it is the onely way next vnto Lime to destroy Mosse. The second grievance is the dearth of victuals with remedie for the same.

Concerning victuals, the want thereof is very great, in regard that all kinde of victuals is risen and growne more deere in price within these last sixe yeares, then in twentie yeares before : and if the dearth of victuals shall happen to increase but a few yeares to come (as by all likelihood it is like to doe) except some speedy remedy be provided, the poore man by his labours shall not get wherewith to relieue himselfe and family.

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This dearth may be much eased, if that euery one that hath a Pigeon house might be enioyned, or otherwise required to breed yearly extraordinary a certaine number of fowle or pullen, as shall seeme best to their liking. The manner and order shall be set downe by a plot for the purpose, how they may be bred with the charge and profite that may yearely arise to the owners.

The reasons whereof are fiue : first, in regard that a plot to breede fowle or pullen in, which may be made and furnished with lesse charges then a Pigeon house, yeeldeth more profit, and nothing at all offendeth the people, wheras the Pigeons are a great cause of dearth, and more chargeable than profitable to the owners, and the losse that the kingdome receiueth therby is infinite, as at large shall be proued.

Secondly, that it is to be supposed that euery one that is able to build a Pigeon house, is also able to make a plot for fowle or pullen to breed in, and either is or should be the Lord of the Mannor, who hath to his Mannor some conuenient ground to make a plot on, for that purpose, and to breed so many pullen or fowle yearly as he keepeth Pigeons.

Thirdly, where as a Pigeon house is builded for house keeping, the breeding of pullen is more profitable, as shall be proued.

Fourthly, that the extreeme dearth of victuals causeth many to breake vp hous-keeping, and to put away their seruants, wherby many through want fall to stealing, and thereby come to an vntimely end, so an extraordinary breeding of fowle and pullen, with other meanes as followeth, may by Gods blessing so ease the
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extremity thereof, as men may, as their aunccestors haue done in former ages, delight in hospitality; hereby preventing many inconueniences that the extremity of dearth doth and may hereafter procure.

Fiftly and lastly, the profite of the fowle and pulle shall be proued to be such, as no man of vnderstanding will denie the performing thereof.

But now to proue the difference of the charge and profite betweene a Pigeon house, and a plot for fowle and pulle. First, all men of experience know, that an ordinary Pigeon house of five yards and a halfe square, and foure yardes high to the euesings; in which house there may be contained twelue score paire of Pigeons, will cost five and twenty pound at the least, and that it will be three yeares before it commeth to the best profite; and when it commeth to that, the best Pigeon house is seldome worth five pound yearly, except it be within threescore miles of London, where all victuals are dearer then in other places of the Kingdome, or a double house. I will not stand to make good the opinion of the multitude concerning the charge of one Pigeon, who will eate (if she haue liberty) a quarter of corne a yere (I haue some reason to beleue it, for that two credible persons did affirm vnto me, that they had lately seene halfe a pinte of corne at one time, taken out of an olde Pigeons croppe, and offered to make prooffe thereof by witnesses of good credite): but we must admit of that which in common experience is not to be denied; which is, that Pigeons haue corne at wil to feed on more then halfe the yeare: and admit there be twelue score paire in a house of olde Pigeons, as commonly there is, and that euery olde Pigeon in that

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time with her young ones should eat but two bushels, which commeth to sixescore quarters at a house : and it is generally holden that they hinder the increase of that which would grow, & spoile as much as they eat, from the time that corne groweth ripe in the field, before haruest be done, and the seed times. And thus in reason it doth appeare, that in all seed times of the yere there is at the least sixteene weekes, in which time shee gathereth vp much corne, that is left vncovered by the harrowes, which a shower of raine would couer, and so would grow : and naturally all Pease and Beanes, if they fall not deepe in sowing, and be very wel couered, they will swell out of the ground, and lie bare vpon the ground ; and yet notwithstanding Pease and Beanes, and all other corn by nature groweth with the root first into the ground, and then springeth vpwards : so that after the seed times be done, and the corne groweth Greene till it grow so high, that the Pigeons cannot go through it, they gather vp the corne growing, and breake off the blades, and eat the corne : all which will be confidently proued by all Husbandmen and Gentlemen, especially by such as sometimes addict their mindes to vnderstand the profite of husbandry.

This being allowed (which by no meanes can be disproued) it appeareth that twelue score paire of Pigeons deuoure, destroy, and hinder the increase of twelue score quarters of corne in a yere. Admit it were but halfe so much, and that the corne were rated, being Wheat, Rie, Barley & Pease, but at two shillings and a penie the bushell, sixescore quarters commeth to a hundred pound yearly at a house. Admit further, that the sixth part thereof be the owners of the Pigeon house

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house (for so it is to be supposed that the Lord of the Mannor hath a sixth part of the towne, then it followeth that his five pounds worth of Pigeons costeth him sixteene pound thirteene shillings and eight pence at the least. What other charge his Pigeons are vnto him, I forbear to relate: the number of the Pigeon houses cannot be fewer then forty thousand, with the Pigeons kept at houses. Now to the charge and profite of fowle or pullen: the plot and all things therunto belonging, will not cost about twenty pound, to haue it conuenient and ready, that when occasion is to take some of the wilde kinde; the taking of those may not offend the rest that remaine behinde. The plot must be especially for the wilde kinde of Ducke and Mallard, which are best to be kept both for profite and pleasure, in a piece of ground where water is and may be got and kept all the yeare, of two and twenty yardes square, moted about with a mote of a rhode or poll of bredth, which will be twenty poll in compasse: it ought to be made sixe foote deepe in the middest, and something shallower towards the sides, which will cost at five shillings a poll five pound. The leuelling of the ground, with quickset and workmanship, foure pound, the house being five yardes square, and sixe foote high, and hauing a little chamber ouer it to keepe Oates in to feede them (the house it selfe being studded and thinly lathed, two fingers betweene the lathes) which house cannot cost about eight pound, and the bridge and doore twenty shillings.

The plot being made, put into it about Christmas threescore tame Duckes and twenty Mallards, which will cost about three and fifty shillings foure pence, or

at Candlemas for want of Duckes, forty Hens and ten Cokes, to remaine till Ducke egges be gotten to breede on in the meane time: there are neither the Hennes nor the Duckes, but their egges will be worth the corne, branne, and draines that the young Ducklings must be fedde withall, till they can cate Oates. The plot being thus ready, and all things else, send one with a horse for egges in March into Cambridge shire, or Lincolne shire about Crowland Leuerton by Boston, or thereabouts, into the Fennes, or into any other neerer place, where wilde Duckes egges are to be got for money, especially in the Fennes, if the people haue liberty to get them (for in the spring time when the wilde Duckes lay, the poore people will goe with a dogge into the Fennes, where their dogge will put vp the fowle out of their neasts; and then if they finde any egges therein that be vnfittes, they will take most of them away with a ladle, or by some other means; so that they neither handle the egges that they leaue behinde, nor breath vpon them, and then wil marke the place where the neast is, so as they may readily come to it, and once in a weeke will fetch all the egges that are laid in the meane time, and so make the Ducke (whose nature is to lay till her neast be full before she will sitte) so poore as they may take her (which oftentimes the hungry inhabitants doe.) The egges being thus got ready, when the keeper of them seeth the Henne or Ducke feather her neast, and beginneth to sitte, then make vp the number in the neast twelue wilde Duck egges: and thus in two yeares the whole number of the wilde or tame may be bred in such sort as they may be taken off at the owners pleasure, and a stocke of fourescore of the oldest

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oldest to be left for breeding with twenty Mallards: which fourescore olde Duckes will breed and bring vp commonly euery one of them eight at the least; the whole number to be three hundred and twenty couple, worth to be solde eight pence the couple; which ariseth to the summe of ten pound and a mark for their young ones. Then the egges that they will yearly lay, to be but worth fifty three shillings and foure pence, at fīue a penie; and the fish that may be bred in the Mote yearly, to be worth thirteene shillings foure pence: Prouided alwaies, that there be no Pikes bred in the Mote; for they will destroy the young fowle, but not the pullen. The whole summe is fourteene pound: deduct out of the same fīue pound, to buy ten quarters of Oates yearly; which ten quarters will allow the fowles about a bushell and halfe a weeke, which is more then is needfull to be spent on them: for except it be in frost or snow, when the ground is couered, or when they sitte, and the young ones are not able to flie abroad, a very small quantitie will serue to giue them euery morning a few, that euery one may get a douzen cornes to haunt them. As for their breed, being once well haunted, they will neuer away in the day, if they may be in quiet, but altogether in the night: by which meanes they are safe from Vermine, and they will continue there especially in breeding time. For experience teacheth all men to know, that all things that hath life, loueth best the place wherein it was bred, finding there their best reliefe and rest; as appeareth, that all the Winter (till breeding time) there are hardly one couple of Duckes and Mallards to be seene in the Fennes, but abundance in Sommer time, where they remaine.

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untill about Michaelmas, and then they go away again. Then further allow forty six shillings eight pence to the keepers, and towards the keeping of the hedge, the remainder is cleere (all charges defraied) sixe pound thirteene shillings and foure pence. Thus is the prooffe made betweene the Pigeons and the wilde Fowle, the one offensive, the other not.

The plot for tame will not cost so much by the charge of the house; for being tame, they may be taken at pleasure.

The pullen will yeeld a greater profite: for there may belikewise kept at a like plot, fourescore Hennes, and twenty Cockes: admit euery Henne to breede yearly but eight Chickens, (though it will be graunted they will breed twise in euery yeare, and at each time eight at the least) their number is three hundred and twenty couple, whereof eightscore couple, rated to be sold being Chickens at sixe pence the couple, make foure pound. Fourescore couple of Hennes at twelue pence the couple, comes to foure pound, and fourescore couple of Capons at two shillings the couple, comes to eight pound. The egges cannot be lesse worth then eight pound at five a peny. And the fish that may be bred yearly in the Mote, will yeelde thirteene shillings foure pence. The totall is twenty foure pound, thirteene shillings and foure pence; out of which deduct thirteene pound, to buy twenty six quarters of Oates, whereby they may be allowed one weeke with another throughout the yeare, foure bushels. Allow further yearly foure pound to the keeper of the pullen, and the maintayning of the plot, although it be supposed, that euery one that will be at the charge of a-
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ny of these plots, keepeth one that tendeth his pullen that he hath already; so that the charge hereof will be so much the lesse. The house for pullen will cost about forty shillings more then a house for fowle, in respect that although the house may be two yarden narrower, yet it must be three yarden longer, with poles in it, for the pullen to sit vpon. As for neasts they shall neede none in the house, but in borders, where they will take more delight to breede in then a house, and be freer from diseases, by reason of the aire; and therefore it shall not be necessary to haue a chamber in that house, because the Keeper may bring the Oates at any time when he commeth to them. But the reason why a chamber is conuenient in the house, wherein the fowle must be vsed to feed, is especially for the Keeper to stay priuately in, to take some of the fowle at pleasure, without offending the rest. Thus all charges to the vttermost being set downe, the remainder is seuen pound, thirteene shillings, and foure pence by the yeare *de clario* at the least, at a very cheape rate. The charge of the plot is vnder three yeares purchase for the pullen, and three yeares purchase for Duckes and Mallards. As for the manner of breeding of pullen and tame fowle, it is needlesse to set downe, onely thus much: For the tame, their charge will be as little or lesse then the wilde, if they be bred in large Pastures, where they may neither doe hurt to corne or meadow ground, which the wilde will neuer doe. The reason is, the wilde keepe in the water all the day, and feed altogether in the night, and dare not come neere corne: and their corne must be giuen them euery morning a little, to draw them to their breeding place in the day; whi-

whither they will not faile to come, being there bred and fed. It shall not be needfull to bestow much corne vpon the tame, but onely at their first being put into the plot, where they must be kept in for three weekes or a moneth: in which time being fed euery euening, they will likewise so know their being, that thither they will come in the night, and feed abroad all day, especially if they find that they sit quiet in the night; such is the difference of their kindes, the one feedeth by day, and the other by night. Now it remayneth to know how the wilde must be bred, when they haue chosen their neasts, which shall appeare in the plot hereafter set downe.

After the fowle begin to lay once a weeke, their Keeper may come to their neasts when the fowles are off, which will be towards night; and for that purpose bring with them an Iron ladle, with a handle halfe a yard long at the least, wherewith they may reach into the neasts of the fowle, and from thence take some of the eldest laid egges, as neere as they can gesse, leauing not aboue or vnder two or three, taking great heed that they neither handle them, nor breathe vpon them, for their nature is to finde that fault, and then they will forsake their neasts. Thus may the egges for the more profit be taken from them, so long as in discretion shall be thought fit, which commonly will be about some ten weekes, ere that they be perceiued to feather their nest: and be sure in the meane time to keepe some egges, that hath bin neither handled nor breathed on: and if there want egges in any of the neasts, when it is perceiued that they sit, then with the Ladle put in more and make the number twelue at the least. The manner how to take them is thus: The

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and make the number twenty at the least. The manner
how to take them is thus :

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The house being made, as before is set downe, the dore therof must be thus made: A light frame of wood as can be made, to be as broad and so long as the dore stead is, being for the purpose a yard or thereabout, for that commonly is the breadth of Canuis or haire cloth. Then take (for the better lasting) so much haire cloth as the dore is of height, and make it fast to the frame of wood as a dore, which must be hanged like a shop-window at the top of the dore stead, to be drawne vp by a cord and a pulley, and so to stand. In the meane time the fowle must be vsed to be fed in the house, which by little and little they will easily be brought vnto, if they be vsually fed there, and some tame ones kept among them for that purpose, which for sundry causes I holde the fitter to breed on; especially they being not able to flie, must of necessity stay there, which will make the Duckes to resort thither for their mates: and some doe hold that the nature of the wilde Mallard, is to sucke the egges if he finde them: being thus vsed to haue their corne in the house, which they may be brought vnto, wherof I could giue many instances, but two may serue for breuity: one at *S^t. James Parke*, the other from *Standish* hall, the house from whence I descended; where wilde Duckes did breed about a Mote, which at the first were bred vnder a Henne, and both those and the breede of them, for many yeares continued so tame by vse, as they would haue followed through the court belonging to the house into the hall, and so wild as vpon any offence they would haue flowne to the riuer or ponds thereabout, and being flowne at, or otherwise there stirred, would haue returned home.

The fowle being thus wonted to the house, the Kee-

per being determined to take any of them, may go into the house at pleasure, and call them thither, according to his wonted manner; the corne being strewed in the house, the Keeper may goe vp into the chamber, and there stay with the cord of the dore in his hand, as privately as he can, and by degrees let the dore down, and when he perceiueth that most of the fowle are gone forth, then may he let the dore close downe, and so take them as quietly as may be, and no whit offend the rest. If all Noblemen and others of the better sort would put this in execution in Forrests, Chases, Parkes, great Pastures, and Commons, it would not only be very beneficiall for themselves in their house-keeping, but would likewise ease the extreme dearth of victuals, to the easing of this grievance.

Obiections against breeding of Fowle.

THat such abundance of fowle by this meanes may be bred, that thereby corne may be made deare. Secondly, that they will destroy the increase of fish. Thirdly, that they will so foile the ground where they are bred, that the cattell will not eate the grasse.

The answer to this Obiection.

First, as touching the dearth of corne that by them may grow, that shall be answered hereafter in place for that purpose, and how more corne may be saued by the tenth part then they can spend, which is yearly destroyed by Vermine.

Secondly,

Secondly, that they doe not destroy or hinder the breed of fish, as it doth appear, especially in the Fennes of the Isle of Ely, where there is greater store of fish, then there is in any place of England, except it be in such like Fenny grounds: in which Isle there is more fowle then there is in all England besides, especially in spawning time, at which time they may doe most hurt, but at other times they can doe none: for after there is life in the fish, no swimming fowle can hurt them. And for the better satisfaction of all men in this point, let any man call to remembrance, whether euer he saw or heard of a fish taken out of a wilde Mallards crop.

Thirdly, as touching their foyling of the ground, an instance may be taken by all fennish Commons, where they haunt, and by all other Commons where great store of Geese are bred and kept, where is to be seene the foile of the Geese to be thicke on the ground (and yet the cattell feeding among it) that in common reason they cannot but gather some of it into their mouthes: though the foyle of Geese is holden the most dangerous foile of all other fowle, yet did I neuer heare any complaine of any losse taken either by their foile or feathers, although in the moulting time, the Commons will seeme as it were strowed with feathers. And it is holden by many good husbands, that fowles, especially Ducks and Mallards do much good to ground and cattell, especially to Deere and Sheepe, namely, by gathering vp the wormes that so sprout vp the earth in the night, which earth in grounds that are eaten bare is beaten abroad with euery showre of raine vpon the short grasse, which commonly is the sweetest, whereon the Deere and Sheepe desire most to feede;

and thereby gather vp the earth that is so beaten on the grasse by the raine, which earth is holden by most skillfull men in sheepe, to be the principall cause of the rot: which the better may be conceiued for as much as experience hath manifested, that seldome either Sheepe or Deere rotte in grounds deepe of grasse. Also Wormes liue by the fat of the earth, and decay the strength thereof, (as all the great Gardiners do affirme) which fowle and pullen will destroy, especially wilde Ducke and Mallard, in respect that they altogether feed by night on the barest grounds, and vpon Worms most of all.

*The second remedy for the dearth of Victuals,
by planting of fruite.*

FOr as much as by the experience that is taken out of most of the countries of this Kingdome, especially out of some parts of Worcestre-shire, Gloucester-shire, and Hereford-shire, where it is generally affirmed, that there be sundry men, that raise to their purses yearly two hundred pounds, by fruit trees growing in their hedges and fields, ouer and besides what he spendeth in his house in Syder and Perry: and that there are some Parsons that haue thirty or forty hogdsheads in a yeare for Tithe. And further it appeareth, that in most towns of this Kingdome, there haue bin prouident husbands that haue planted Orchards, wch in effect are now decayed, which haue not onely beene very beneficiall to themselves, but also to the Common-wealth, & there be yet some few that do plant, some an acre of ground, which is yearly worth five pound at the least in fruite.

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In respect whereof, and for other good considerations, if it were provided (in regard the like profite may be yearly raised in the greater part of this Kingdome, to the great profite of the Planters, and benefite to the Common-wealth, which will likewise bee a speciall meanes to disburthen vs of the greatest part of this grievance, for that thereby the extreame price of Victuals will be greatly eased,) That there may be a certaine number of fruite trees, planted in all the Hedges, as of Apples, Wardens, and Peares, and most of all the Apples, where White-thorne and Crabbe-trees doe or may hereafter grow being planted, viz. for euery Acre of enclosed ground foure trees, which can no way bee hurtfull, or hinder any other profite whatsoever that may bee raysted out of Hedges. The fruite that by this meanes may be raised yearly, can not be lesse woorth (if all were enclosure ground) then twelue hundred thousand pounds, if the fruite were sold for fixe pence a bushell.

And this I may proue two seuerall waies, First, by experience taken from Crabs, it is knowne to all Huswiues that a bushell of Crabs, will make two gallons and a halfe of Veriuiice, and so much some of the best Chandlers in London haue affirmed to mee. I haue also enquired of some of the better sort inhabiting in the Countries before recited, as I haue trauelled through those Countries for this purpose for my better experience, how much Sider a bushell of Apples will yeeld, or a bushell of Peares of Perrie; whose answers for the most part were, that a bushell of ordinary Apples, would at the first presse yeeld two gallons and a halfe;

and by putting a gallon of faire water into the Apples so pressed, and letting it stand some twelue houres, sometimes stirring them, and then presse them againe, would yeeld another gallon, but not so good, so long lasting as is at the first.

The second is this, that in a bushel there is about two hundred of the greatest Pipins, let some of them to the number of twentie be baked in a Pot for the purpose, or take twentie of them and roste, and that man will be holden for a monster, that can eat so many at one meale, which may be afforded for a penny, and the surplusage being fourescore, will recompence the labour that is taken about them. By either of these meanes I hope it will be allowed, that of themselves they are worth the rate before set downe, and being baked in Paste, a good and profitable vse is made of them in many mens houses, by sauing other victuals; and when it pleaseth God to blesse those few fruite trees that are in this Kingdome, it will something abate the extreame prices of victuals. This present yeare may be an instance, and all Drouers of Cattell will affirme, that they haue felt the smart of the plenty of fruite, and the inhabitants of the Citie of London will acknowledge, that the fruite that commeth thither, easeth something the prices of victuals.

The greatest hinderance which may be to these good works of planting fruit, and wood, will be confessed of most men by their experience, who haue in their times seene many men beginne to plant Orchards, and set quickwood, to the end to haue hedges in many places, especially by high waies for the sauing of corne; and at the first will make some prouision for the preserving
of

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of the same, which afterwards some by coueting the grasse growing in the Orchard, putteth some kinde of cattell therein which breaketh and spoyleth the grafts: others by want of maintaining the fences, whereby their expectation, cost and labour is lost, & so in quick-wood after a great cost in planting, for a litle more cost in maintaining, all is trodden downe and lost: in like sort much good spring wood is spoyled by cattell by want of fencing. Thus either by couetousnesse, nigardnesse, or negligence, many good actions are overthrowne to the losse both of the owner and Commonwealth, my counsell herein is to begin well, and to perseuere therein accordingly vnto the end.

Obiection against planting of fruite.

First, that if they be planted in hedges they will be stollen, and hedges broken for them.

Secondly, that such plenty of fruit would make corne ouer cheepe for the Farmour.

Thirdly, that if the hedges were so thicke planted with trees, in closes or fields, that are not aboue fixe acres, they will be very hurtfull; for that if such closes or fieldes shall happen to be sowne with corne or mowne for hay, the trees will so keepe off the Sun and wind, that in wet haruests it will greatly hinder the drying of hay and corne.

Fourthly, that his land is his owne, and he will not be constrained to vse it otherwise then he listeth, and that such as haue a thousand acres or more in occupation, may haue so much fruit as he shall not know what to doe with it.

*The Commons complaint.**The answer to these objections.*

THe first I grant in part, that fruit being planted but in particular may be stollen, and little good may grow thereby, but being generally planted as is required, what cause may any charitable man haue to complaine? or what man complaineth in any of the countries before recited (from whence example for this purpose is taken) of stealing his fruit where the hedges are as thicke with fruit trees and other trees as is required? It is scarcity that causeth stealing, but in those countries the trees in the hedges hang as commonly full of fruit on the high waies side as on the other, and the hedges of fields and closes in those countries, and in some other countries are as thicke of fruit trees and other trees as are required, and yet notwithstanding such as haue Corne or Hay in little closes make shift to get it drie. Thus the first and third is answered.

What charity is in the fourth, I referre to the censure of the indifferent Reader. For it is in reason to be conceiued that hardly halfe of the people of the Kingdome hath not grounds to plant on, but would buy them at the rate set downe, being cheaper then any other victuals, and by the plenty of fruit such store of Syder may be made and kept without losse, vntill it may happen that a deare yeare of corne may come, which then may be spent in drinke, and the Barly may be conuerted to bread corne, and by this meanes corne may alwaies be sold at reasonable prices in this land. This may be proued by the best Merchants who will
affirme

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affirme that Syder will keepe seuen yeares. And by this meanes such store of Corne and Syder, may alwaies bee in the Realme, that treasure may bee brought into the land for Corne, Syder, and many other commodities that may be spared, whereby the Kingdome may be greatly enriched, and the customes increased to the good of the King.

The second is idle: for what man of experience knoweth not but the Farmour that liueth by tillage, may either by feeding of beefes, muttons, hogs, pul- len, and many other things that may be fed or bred by corne, may at all times (if he thinke corne too cheepe in the market) by these meanes a sufficient price of his corne bootie for the buyer and seller. Moreouer, much more ground may be conuerted to the feeding & breeding of cattell and to daries, all which is (as the world now goeth) very conuenient, the rather for that by experience it hath beene continually seene, that whereas corne is deere one yeare in seuen, yet for other five or sixe years, it is at a more reasonable rate then other victu- als, which yearly rise in price, and seldome or neuer abate. And further if corne be very cheape, it may be transported as it hath beene, (with Perry and Syder into other countries,) so that if the Farmours should loose something in the prices of their corne, yet they shall gaine much more in their house-keeping and o- ther necessities.

And whereas it may seeme distastfull to some to plant their fruite trees in the Hedges; admit that there should be an Acre inclosed, wherein may be planted fourescore fruite trees, and euery tree may haue an ele- uen yardes roome to grow on, whereby the ground

may take no hurt by Weedes, which after ten yeares will yeeld one yeare with another, and one tree with another a bushell of fruit, rated as before at sixe pence the bushell, this profit wil amount to fortie shillings the Acre at that rate. Admit further, that the charge of inclosing of this Acre round about, being eight Rode of breadth, and twentie in length, should cost foure-tene pence a rode, to haue a good ditch double or treble set with quicke Thornes, and hedged round about on the outside of the Ditch, which hedge will last well three yeares: at the two yeares end towards the latter end of March, cut the quicke wood vpward with a knife close by the ground, and weede the grasse cleane vp from about the rootes, the wood of the old hedge wil pay for the labour, and then the first charge is foure pound and foure shillings at the three yeares ende. Then hedge it new againe, which may cost thirtie and sixe shillings, that hedge will last well till the quicke wood bee past taking hurt, for that in those three yeares after it is cut, it will grow higher then it would doe in tenne yeares being not cut, and so thicke that nothing can get through it. In the meane time whilst the Fence is in growing, if there be strewed in a Nursery the kernels of a hundred Apples, or kernels of Crabbes, or set when (or before) the quicke wood is set, there will be more sets then that ground requireth, which being well preserved, will be bigge enough in three or foure yeares to graft vpon. The charge being sixe pound, is but three yeares purchase.

For destroying of Vermine.

THe greatest deuourers of corne, of these kinde are Rookes, Crowes, and Sparrowes, the number whereof is infinite, and so is the quantitie of corne which they destroy yearely. They also greatly hinder the increase of corne, which when they cannot finde it lying aboute the ground, they scratch it vp with their feete or picke it vp with their Bills, Blades, and Rootes; and when corne is eared, then if it happen to be laid, both Rookes and pigeons light vpon it & so spoile it, that if it were worth forty shillings an Acre before, in one weeke they will make it not worth ten shillings the acre. One kind of these Crowes liue much vpon Chickens and Foule, and by their Eggs, & kill yong Lambes, and do much hurt besides. There are also many other flying vermin, that destroy Pheasants, Partridges, Fowle, Pullen and young Rabbits, which are Buzzards, Kites, Ring-tailes, & Pyes, all which or the most part of them may easily be destroyed in three yeares onely, by the pulling downe of their nests, in breeding time, not suffering any of them to breed, euery man to vndertake for his owne ground vpon a penalty, to the vse of the poore of the Parish. Two other great spoilers of fowle, are the shooting in Peeeces, and water Dogs; the one galleth more then they kill and get, that are lost, so do Dogs when the Fowle are young, and in moulting time. And much Lead and Poulder might be aued, by reason that euery man may haue Hawkes meate by his Foule and Pullen.

OBJECTIONS.

That is true that is alleadged, that the Vermine before mentioned are as hurtfull to the Commonwealth as is alleadged, and that many yeares since by Act of Parliament there was a speciall law made for the generall destroying of all kinde of vermine that could bee thought vpon, as Foxes, Badgers, Polecats, wilde Cats, Stotes, and all other whatsoever, which was as much as then was thought convenient.

THE ANSWER.

IT appeareth that such an Act was made for the destroying of vermine aforesaid, and of other vermine, but so small an allowance was made that no man made account thereof: wherefore by allowing a good proportion for this businesse, they may be soone destroyed, and the charge soone ended, and then all vermine being destroyed, and Pidgeon houses suppressed (excepting onely such as are allowed by the common lawes of this kngdome) it cannot be imagined that corne or any thing else for the reliefe of man can be deare in this land, without God doe altogether take away his blessings.

Of Wood.

FIRST it is sufficiently proued, that Wood being generally planted for euerie Acre of this Kingdome,

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Kingdome, being at least foure and twenty millions of acres, that wood land may be planted in ; the worth thereof ariseth to fourteene hundred thousand pounds by the yeare : admit that the fourth part of the Kingdome be already replenished , yet the gaine by fire-wood and timber of the other three parts will arise to eighteene hundred thousand pounds. The timber and fire-wood that shall be planted in pasture ground, as aforesaid, will be clearely gained by the better breeding and feeding of the number of cattell more than may be bred by the pasture and straw , that may be saved, which is now spoiled & burnt, the worth of cattell so bred, may be two hundred thousand pound yearly at the least. Al which may be effected with lesse then three yeares purchase in pasture and meadow grounds , and the whole charge of planting wood in barren ground may be recouerd in lesse then three yeares, with tenne pound gain, as it is proued ; & after ten yeares the soile may be improued from twelue pence an acre yearly to ten shillings an acre yearly. The fire-wood of two thousand trees being wel husbanded, will be worth sixe pence a tree at euery eight yeares end , which riseth to fifty pounds. The ground is improued ten pound yearly : and the foure score trees remaining will be better worth then forty pounds after threescore yeares , and by the fruit after ten yeares forty shillings a yeare.

Of fruite.

IT is also proued that fruit trees may be planted in twelue millions of acres at the least in this Kingdom, which being rated at two shillings an acre, sixe pence a

tree, the value whereof commeth to twelue hundred thousand pounds yearly; out of which being deducted for the fruit already planted in this Kingdome two hundred thousand pounds, yet there remaineth one million of pounds gained yearly: the fruit trees which may be planted in Orchards, may be gained in three yeares, and in hedge rowes in one yeare.

Of fowle and pullen.

AS concerning the breeding of fowle and pullen, it is likewise proued, that there may be well bred so many as will be worth five hundred thousand pounds yearly in this Kingdome, after the rate of eight pence the couple one with another, and that prouision being made for the destroying of Vermine, there will be fowles enow soone bred in this Realme, and that if euery owner of Pigeons should yearly breed so many fowles or pullen, as they keepe olde Pigeons, and euery man that hath grounds conuenient would make plots to breed on as is aforesaid, it would greatly ease the dearth of victuals, the charge whereof may be recovered in three yeares. For the better vnderstanding how the profits may arise, it is to be noted, that it appeareth by the generall map of this Kingdome, that it containeth twenty nine millions five hundred sixty eight thousand acres, out of which number deducting five millions, and the odde thousands of acres for high wares, wilde lying grounds and waits not fit for planting, there remaineth foure and twenty millions; which being rated at a peny an acte, amounteth to an hundred thousand pounds.

*Suppressing of Pigeon-houses, and destroying
of Vermine.*

ANd it is likewise proued, that by suppressing halfe the Pigeon houles of this Realme, and of Pigeons kept ouer gates, chambers, and other places for that purpose, there may be yearely saued so much corne as is worth two millions of pounds at the least, which they destroy and spoile: which may be effected without charge: and that by the destroying of feathered fowles, which in like sort destroy and deuoure corne, and hinder the increase of the same, there may be saued as much corne yearely in this Realme, as is worth three millions of pounds. By the destroying of the before recited Vermine, there may be saued in fowles and pulles and egges, which they destroy yearly, the worth of fife thousand pound at the least, besides young Fawnes, Lambes, Rabbits, and many other things by them destroyed. I can make prooue where there were within this three yeare, seuen dozen couple of Rabbits found on a heape, carried together in lesse time then a moneth by a Store. Also by a generall destroying of Rats and Mice, there may be saued yearely in bread, cheefe, corne, and other things which they deuoure and destroy, foure hundred thousand pound at the least. I haue knowne some one man lose forty pounds in a yeare, by keeping corne hoping for dearth, by Mice and Rats (too many such there be) which twenty shillings in time bestowed would haue saued. All, or the most part of which Vermine may be destroyed with lesse cost then the losse which is sustained.

50 *The Commons complaint.*

ned by them in one halfe yeare, by allowing a good proportion to every man that destroyeth them, as well yong and olde, as their egges and neasts : which would incourage servants and poore men to be industrious, in destroying the said vermine, and so the worke would soone be finished, and the charge ended : for money maketh men to labour.

Summe, nine millions, two hundred thousand pound saved and gained by this project yearly to the performers, besides the good that may grow thereby to the Common-wealth.

That it might be provided that no Tenant should be indemnified by their Land-lords, by letting any of their Farmes, whereupon they haue planted wood or fruite, before they haue received sufficient profit of their labour, without sufficient recompence for their charge.

FIN IS.



